

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W
-----024158 020716Z /15

R 011539Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 09495

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SP, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH-GIBALTARIAN-SPANISH TALKS IN STRASBOURG

REF: MADRID 8944

1. DURING A CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS (ELIAS),
POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASKED HIM HOW THE NOVEMBER 24 TALKS
BETWEEN SPANISH AND BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN
STRASBOURG HAD GONE. ELIAS NOTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE PRESENCE--AS MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION,
HE WAS CAREFUL TO SAY--OF GIBALTARIAN REPRESENTATIVES,
ADDING THAT THIS HAD BEEN CLEARED BEFOREHAND
WITH THE GOS, WHICH HAD POSED NO OBJECTION.

2. IN CONTRAST TO INITIAL PRESS REPORTS HERE OF A TENSE
AND EVEN AT TIMES UNPLEASANT MEETING, ELIAS (WHO WAS
IN STRASBOURG) SAID IT HAD GONE QUITE WELL, WITH EACH
PARTICIPANT SIMPLY PRESENTING HIS POINT OF VIEW. THERE
WERE TO BE FURTHER TALKS EARLY NEXT YEAR, HE ADDED, AND
THE GOS CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT THE KEY ISSUE--SOVEREIGNTY--
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COULD BE JOINED. IN ANY CASE, HE STRESSED THAT STRASBOURG
TALKS WERE A "STEP FORWARD".

3. IN ADDITION TO MENTIONING THE FAMILIAR SPANISH
POSITION JUSTIFYING THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT
THE TREATY OF UTRECHT, WHICH PERMITS THE BRITISH PRESENCE,
ALSO CALLS FOR NO COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE SURROUNDING

TERRITORY, ELIAS ADDED A NEW WRINKLE IN ASSERTING THAT
THE RESTRICTIONS WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE
ON THE ROCK OF A MILITARY BASE COMPLETELY UNDER FOREIGN
CONTROL. THE RESTRICTIONS, ELIAS SAID, HAD THE PURPOSE--
HE EVEN IMPLIED IT WAS THE SOLE PURPOSE--OF PROTECTING
SPANISH SECURITY. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GIBALTAR, MEETINGS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SP, UK
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